AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

Claim 1 (Currently Amended): A powder core comprising: a plurality of composite magnetic particles bonded to each other;

wherein[[:]]each of said plurality of composite magnetic particles includes:

a metal magnetic particle[[;]],

an insulative lower layer coating surrounding a surface of said metal magnetic particle[[;]],

an upper layer coating surrounding said lower layer coating and containing silicon[[;]], and

dispersed particles containing a metal oxide compound and disposed in said upper layer coating and/or said lower layer coating;

wherein said dispersed particles includes at least one oxide selected from the group consisting of silicon oxide and aluminum oxide; and

wherein a mean particle diameter R of said dispersed particles meets a condition 10 nm < R ≤ 2T, where T is an average thickness of a coating formed from said lower layer coating and said upper layer coating.

Claim 2 (Original): A powder core according to claim 1 wherein said lower layer coating includes at least one compound selected from a group consisting of a phosphorous compound, a silicon compound, a zirconium compound, and an aluminum compound.

Claim 3 (Canceled).

Claim 4 (Previously Presented): A powder core according to claim 1 wherein said lower layer coating has an average thickness of at least 10 nm and no more than 1 micron.

Claim 5 (Previously Presented): A powder core according to claim 1 wherein said upper layer coating has an average thickness of at least 10 nm and no more than 1 micron.

Claim 6 (Previously Presented): A method for making a powder core according to claim 1 comprising:

a step for forming a shaped body by shaping said plurality of metal magnetic particles; and

a step for heat treating said shaped body at a temperature of at least 500 deg C and less than 800 deg C.